



Accelerating Research
to Commercialisation



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Taighde Éireann
Research Ireland

The ARC Hub for ICT is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027.

The ARC Hub for ICT
Call for Translational Research Projects

Key Dates

Call Announcement: 9th March 2026

Deadline for submission of proposals: 24th April 2026 at 5pm (GMT)

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1. Purpose of the Document

This guide has been developed to support applicants in preparing and submitting funding applications for Translational Research Projects (TRPs) under the ARC Hub for ICT. The ARC Hub welcomes applications from underrepresented groups.

This guide should be read in conjunction with Research Ireland's more general application guidance for ARC Hub Translational Research Projects which is available on the Research Ireland's website [here](#).

Applicants are encouraged to read this guide and the guidance provided by Research Ireland thoroughly and refer to both documents throughout the application process.

2. Funding overview

The aim of the ARC Hub for ICT is to build a thriving entrepreneurial pathway for ICT and AI research. Funding is available for Translational Researchers (TRs) who have identified novel research opportunities in ICT and AI that can be accelerated towards rapid commercial impact.

While there are no limits to the budget, there is an additional international review process that any TRP of more than €150,000 in direct costs must undergo (see Section 6 of Research Ireland's *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document). TRPs should have a duration of up to two years maximum.

Applications for funding should align with one of the five pillar themes of the ARC Hub for ICT; even if the fit is not immediately obvious, the project will be reviewed:



- **Digital Education & Online Communication** - focuses on using ICT and AI to enhance digital learning, support human–AI collaboration, and improve online engagement, ensuring inclusivity in the digital transition.
- **Healthcare & Medical Applications** - focuses on applying AI and digital technologies to address medical challenges and improve lives.
- **Digital Infrastructure** - focuses on building and optimising large-scale digital systems to ensure ICT and AI can operate effectively in transport, communications, and urban environments.
- **Sustainable & Environmental Management** - applies digital technologies to support climate action, resource efficiency, and environmental protection, ensuring a sustainable digital future.
- **Data Security, Privacy & Governance** - tackles key challenges in ICT and AI, including ethics, trust, explainability, and the reliability of complex systems.

3. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for TRs are outlined in section 2 of Research Ireland's *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document. TRs who have not led a TRP previously must undergo an eligibility check by Research Ireland. Details on the documentation that must be provided are outlined in section 3 of Research Ireland's *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document.

4. Engagement with the Host RPO

The ARC Hub for ICT will engage with the Innovation offices of the partnering RPO from the start of each TRP.

Each project is required to have an Entrepreneurial Mentor who is a representative of the local Innovation Office. The Entrepreneurial Mentor will accompany the TR and



the project staff through their journey on the project. This will involve supporting and advising the team throughout the project including participating with the team in the entrepreneurial training programme.

The application for funding must specify the name and contact details of the Entrepreneurial Mentor for the TRP.

5. Industry Partners

For any TRP involving an Industry Partner (regardless of budget size), Research Ireland requires a check for compliance with State aid rules and the conditions of the EU Commission General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) before any activity starts on the TRP. Section 7 of Research Ireland's *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document outlines the information required to be provided by the TR to allow the ARC Hub for ICT, on behalf of the TR, to submit for approval of the Industry Partner.

6. Application Documentation

Research Ireland's *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document outlines the specific documentation required for each application; in section 4 for TRPs seeking budget less than €150,000, and in section 6 for TRPs seeking budget equal to or greater than €150,000. This includes documentation for Research Ireland record-keeping purposes and documentation for evaluation purposes. Appendix II of the *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document outlines the requirements of each section of the *ARC Hub Application Form*.

In addition to the documentation specified in *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document, applicants must complete a local *ARC Hub for ICT Supplementary Application Form* which is available [here](#). [Appendix I](#) of this document outlines the requirements of each section of this form.



Applicants are also required to submit a short, 2-minute video pitch. A link to the Video Pitch, in the required format, must be provided with the application in EasyChair, see [section 7](#). The link must be a private YouTube video link. [Appendix II](#) details the information that must be included in the video pitch and how to upload and create the video link.

Section 8.1 of Research Ireland's *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document lists the general guidelines for application documentation, including format, numbers of pages, file types and file sizes. The single exception to these instructions is the *ARC TRP Application Form* should be uploaded with the submission in word format and not pdf format.

Note that TRs submitting an application will require a SESAME profile and the SESAME ID is required on the application form. Information on access to SESAME, which is Research Ireland's grants and awards management system, is given in section 8 of Research Ireland's *ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance* document.

7. Application Process

Applications for funding will be submitted to the ARC Hub for ICT via the [EasyChair Conference Management System](#). Applications submitted by email or other means will not be accepted.

Applicants should login to EasyChair using an existing account or, create a new account if they do not already have one. Once logged in, navigate to the [ARC Hub for ICT Proposal Submission](#) page. [Appendix III](#) of this document details how to make an application through EasyChair. Please ensure all necessary documentation (see [Section 6](#) above) is uploaded with the application.



The ARC Hub for ICT will ensure that the successful applications are uploaded onto SESAME meeting Research Ireland's SESAME requirements.

Applications will not be accepted after the close date. Applicants are encouraged to contact the ARC Hub for ICT for more information on the next Call.

8. Review Process

Stage 1: Written Reviews

Applications will be reviewed following the closing date of the call for proposals. Applications will be evaluated by at least two reviewers, including at least one independent academic reviewer, and a commercialisation expert from the ARC Hub for ICT. Reviewers will be asked to provide a score and a narrative for each criterion.

The following criteria will be considered:

- Applicant / Team – the applicant's, or team's (including collaborators, where relevant) experience to deliver this project, and the potential benefits of their engagement with the ARC Hub for ICT.
- Unmet Need / Solution / Commercial Potential – the unmet need and evidence to support it, the proposed solution, and the proposed commercial potential, the justification for follow-on Hub funding (if applicable).
- Execution & Delivery – the proposed project plan, including deliverables, roles, risks and mitigations, and appropriateness of the budget and resources required to achieve the proposed outcomes.
- Alignment – how the project aligns with the goals of the ARC Hub for ICT.



Stage 2: Commercialisation Panel

Applications considered successful following the written review stage will progress to the next stage of the review process. This stage involves a short meeting with a Commercialisation Panel, during which applicants will respond to questions from the panel. Questions will be directly related to the application and will seek clarification on points that arose in the first stage of the review process. The aim of this stage is to give applicants an opportunity to clarify their application with experienced commercialisation experts.

Stage 3: International Peer Review (TRPs seeking budget equal to or greater than €150,000)

TRPs seeking a budget equal to or greater than €150,000 will be submitted to Research Ireland for International Peer Review. The peer review process for these TRPs is outlined in Section 10 of Research Ireland's ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance document.

Final Decision

Final decisions and feedback for TRPs seeking budget less than €150,000 will be available to the applicant following completion of Stage 2 of the review process. Any Letter of Offer issued will be subject to meeting Research Ireland eligibility requirements.

TRPs seeking budget equal to or greater than €150,000 that require international peer review will receive a decision once that is completed. Feedback will be provided to applicants following each stage of the review process.



9. Post Award Expectations

Funded projects will receive support through a Shared Development Model (UX/UI, agile delivery, scalability) and a comprehensive entrepreneurial training programme.

TRs are required to work closely with ARC Hub for ICT leadership and operations staff and meet the expectations outlined below.

At the highest level, TRs are expected to:

- **Engage in training:** Participate in all stages of the ARC Hub for ICT entrepreneurship training programme.
- **Advance commercialisation:** Collaborate with their Research Body Innovation Office (or equivalent) to progress the commercialisation of their research.
- **Lead their teams:** Ensure teams understand their responsibilities as an ARC Hub for ICT project.
- **Be responsive:** Reply to ARC Hub for ICT requests in a timely manner.
- **Maintain ethical standards:** Comply with the ethical policies and procedures of their host institution.
- **Champion diversity and inclusion:** Foster an inclusive research culture within their teams.
- **Protect intellectual property (IP):** Maintain confidentiality of IP. Open-sourcing or publication of project outputs requires prior approval.
- **Participate and promote:** Attend Hub events and follow branding and communication guidelines.
- **Report and disclose:** Provide timely reports and promptly notify the ARC Hub for ICT of inventions, licences, spin-outs and other IP outcomes.

10. Support and Queries

Applicants are encouraged to contact the ARC Hub for ICT team at ict@archub.ie during the application process if they have any questions.



Appendix I – ARC Hub for ICT Supplemental Application Form

The ARC Hub for ICT Supplemental Application Form is split into 8 sections.

1. TRP Details
2. Themes
3. Have you applied to the ARC hub for ICT for funding previously?
4. USP & Commercial Activity
5. Technical Objectives & Support
6. Background IP Register (if applicable)
7. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)
8. Use of Artificial Intelligence Declaration

Guideline point for each section are provided on the application form however, these are not exhaustive and, applicants are encouraged to include any additional information they deem to be relevant to the application.

TRP Details

Details provided in this section must match the information which has been submitted on the ARC TRP Application Form (Research Ireland).

Themes

Refer to *Section 1.1* in this document.

Applicants are required to select a theme that most closely aligns to their Translational Research Project; even if the fit is not immediately obvious, the project will be reviewed. You have the choice to select more than one option (if applicable).



Have you applied to the ARC hub for ICT for funding previously?

Applicants are required to confirm if they have previously applied for funding with the ARC Hub for ICT. If yes, applicants must outline the changes made to the current application, including how reviewer feedback has been addressed.

USP & Commercial Activity

USP: The USP should clearly describe what makes your solution distinct and valuable. Focus on the key advantage or benefit it provides, emphasising why it solves the problem more effectively, efficiently, or innovatively while highlighting its impact and relevance to users or market.

Entrepreneurial Mentor: Each TR will work with an ‘Entrepreneurial Mentor’ (EM) who is a member of your local institutions Knowledge Transfer/Technology Transfer team. Please ensure the named EM is aware that they are named and is aware and has agreed to the contents of this submission. The EM will also be expected to attend formal training with you as part of the program.

Commercial Objectives: Commercial Objectives should clearly outline the intended market impact and value your solution will create. Applicants should focus on how your solution will generate revenue, reduce costs, improve efficiency, or create competitive advantage. Include specifics on target markets, potential customers, and measurable outcomes.

Technical Objectives & Support

TRL Level: These should clearly indicate the current TRL level including justification and the expected TRL level following the requested term of the project. Describe the key activities that will enable progression to the expected TRL level.



Technical Objectives: These should clearly describe the key technical goals your solution aims to achieve. Focus on the specific innovations, improvements, or capabilities that will be developed or demonstrated. Be clear, measurable, and realistic, highlighting how the technical outcomes support the overall success of the project.

Development Support: Applicants can avail of developmental support from the ARC Hub centrally (e.g. design/UI/UX) throughout the duration of the programme. Please list any expected requests you may have throughout the award period.

Background IP Register (if applicable)

Background IP: Clearly identify any existing intellectual property, technologies, or know-how that will be used in the project. Specify ownership, licensing status, and any restrictions or obligations associated with this IP.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

We strongly encourage applications from researchers of all backgrounds, and particularly welcome participation from individuals and communities that are underrepresented in research and innovation.

Proposals must demonstrate how EDI is integrated into research design, data and commercialisation strategies of the project. Applicants must outline how this will be achieved.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Declaration

Applicants are required to declare any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation of the ARC Hub application.



Appendix II – Video Pitch Guide

Your video should be **clear, commercial, and compelling**. Imagine you're pitching to an industry partner or investor with limited time.

SAMPLE VIDEO PITCH

Video Structure (2 Minutes Max.)

We recommend structuring your video pitch around five key elements listed below. Please note you do not need to answer every sub question – these are the advised areas you should cover under that element.

1. The Problem (20-30 seconds)

- What real-world problem are you solving?
- Who specifically experiences this problem?
- Why does it matter commercially?

Be concrete. Avoid technical jargon. Show market relevance.

2. Your Solution (20-30 seconds)

- What is your innovation?
- What makes it novel or differentiated?
- Why is it better than existing alternatives?

Focus on the value, not just the research.

3. Commercial Opportunity (30-40 seconds)

- Who is the target customer?
- How large or scalable is the opportunity?
- What industry sectors are most relevant?
- What is the potential pathway to market (licensing, startup, partnership, etc.)?

This is critical - we want to see commercial thinking.

4. Traction & Validation (20-30 seconds)



- Any industry engagement?
- Pilot studies, prototypes, proof-of-concept?
- IP position?
- Market feedback or demand signals?

Evidence of momentum strengthens your pitch.

5. Why You & Why the ARC Hub for ICT? (20-30 seconds)

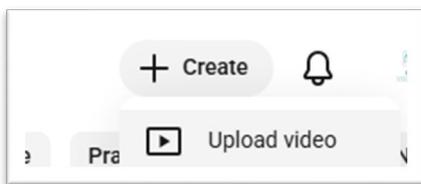
- Why are you the right team to deliver this?
- What capability gaps would the ARC Hub for ICT help you address?
- How would Hub engagement accelerate commercial impact?

Recommendations on what to avoid for a successful video pitch

- Overly technical deep dives
- Academic framing without market relevance
- Reading from slides
- Generic statements about “disruption”

Creating a Private YouTube Video

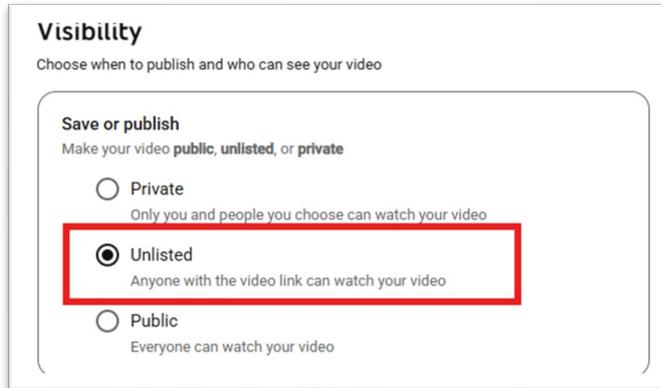
1. Go to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com>) and sign in with your account
2. Select Create (+) > Upload video



3. Upload your video file (MP4 format recommended)
4. Title = Translational Research Project Title
5. Select Next until you reach the Visibility section



6. Set the video visibility to Unlisted (“Unlisted” means only people with the link can view the video)



Visibility
Choose when to publish and who can see your video

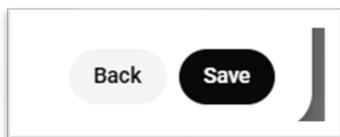
Save or publish
Make your video **public**, **unlisted**, or **private**

Private
Only you and people you choose can watch your video

Unlisted
Anyone with the video link can watch your video

Public
Everyone can watch your video

7. Save



8. Copy the video link and enter the link on the application in EasyChair (see [Appendix III](#))

Requirements

- The video must be accessible without login
- The video must remain available until after the call close date

Common Issues to Avoid

- Do not upload as “Private” (reviewers will not have access)
- Do not restrict access to specific email addresses
- Do not delete or replace the video during the review period

Please ensure your video pitch is recorded in a **horizontal (landscape) format (16:9)**. Vertical (9:16) videos under three minutes may be automatically classified as Shorts on YouTube, which can affect playback and visibility.



Before submitting, **review your uploaded video in full** to confirm that it has been processed and uploaded in its entirety. If your video is incorrectly displayed as a Short or appears truncated, please adjust the settings as follows:

- Go to **YouTube Studio**
- Select **Content** and click on your video
- Under **Details**, remove “#Shorts” from the title or description (if included)
- Check the **Visibility** settings to ensure the video is published correctly (unlisted)
- If the issue persists, delete and **re-upload the video in horizontal (16:9) format**
- **Troubleshooting:** If your uploaded video appears shorter than expected, this is often due to an export issue. Please re-export your video in MP4 format (H.264, 1080p, 30fps recommended) and confirm the full duration plays correctly on your device before uploading.



Appendix III – EasyChair Application Guide

Once logged in, you will access the New Submission page. The following details are required to be completed.

Author Information

Please ensure the information provided matches that which is specified on your ARC Hub TRP Application Form.

- **Email:** Use professional email address only
- **Affiliation:** Institution at which you are employed
- **Web page:** Link to ORCID ID, LinkedIn and other professional website(s).

First name [†] :	*	<input type="text"/>
Last name:	*	<input type="text"/>
Email:	*	<input type="text"/>
Country/region:	*	Ireland ▼
Affiliation:	*	<input type="text"/>
Web page:		<input type="text"/>



Title and Abstract

- Title of Translational Research Project
- Leymans Abstract of TRP (copy of section 3.2 on ARC Hub TRP Application Form)

Title: *

The abstract should not exceed 200 words

Abstract: *

Keywords

- Minimum of 3 keywords which define the Translational Research Project
- Copy of section 3.3 on ARC Hub TRP Application Form

Keywords

Type a list of keywords (also known as key phrases or key terms), **one per line** to characterize your submission. You should specify at least three keywords.

Keywords: *



Topics

- Select the Thematic most closely aligns to your Translational Research Project; even if the fit is not immediately obvious, your project will be reviewed.

Topics

Please select topics relevant to your submission from the following list. Topics are typically used for assigning submissions to reviewers and for conference analytics. **You must select one or more topics.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Education & Online Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare & Medical Applications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable & Environmental Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Security, Privacy & Governance | |

Other Information and Files

SESAME PIN number

- Your PIN is stored in your contact profile within SESAME. If you do not already have a SESAME Pin, contact the Research Office of your host Research Body.

SESAME PIN Number. * Please provide your SESAME PIN number. Your PIN is stored in your contact profile within SESAME. If you do not already have a SESAME Pin, contact the Research Office of your host Research Body.

ARC Hub for ICT Video Pitch

- 2 minutes maximum duration

Video Pitch Link. * Provide a link to the 2-minute Video Pitch. The link must be for an Unlisted Youtube video.



ARC Hub TRP Application Form

- Application form provided by Research Ireland.
- Submit in Word Format

1. ARC Hub TRP Application Form. * Upload your ARC Hub TRP Application Form, the document must be submitted in word format.

Choose file No file chosen

ARC Hub for ICT Supplemental Application Form

- Supplemental Application form provided by the ARC Hub for ICT.

2. ARC Hub for ICT Supplemental Application Form. * Upload your ARC Hub for ICT Supplemental Application Form, the document must be submitted in word format.

Choose file No file chosen

ARC Hub TRP Budget

- ARC TRP Budget or ARC TRP Budget Industry templates provided by Research Ireland.
- Submit in Excel format.

3. ARC Hub TRP Budget. * Applicants are required to complete either the 'ARC TRP Budget' or 'ARC TRP Budget_Industry' (for TRPs involving Industry Partners) excel spreadsheet.
*Upload in excel format.

Choose file No file chosen



ARC Hub TR Narrative CV

- Translational Researchers are required to provide a CV (max. 5 pages) using the ARC Narrative CV Template provided.
- If more than one TR/Co-TR requires approval, completed forms should be collated and uploaded as a single file.
- Submit in PDF format

4. ARC Hub TR Narrative CV. * Translational Researchers are required to provide a CV (max. 5 pages) using the ARC Narrative CV Template provided.

*If more than one TR/Co-TR requires approval, completed forms should be collated and uploaded as a single file.

*Upload in PDF format.

No file chosen

ARC Hub TR Eligibility Check Form

- New TR/Co-TRs (regardless of TRP budget size) are required to complete an 'ARC TR Eligibility Check Form'.
- If more than one TR/Co-TR requires approval, completed forms should be collated and uploaded as a single file.
- Upload in PDF format.

5. ARC Hub TR Eligibility Check Form. New TR/Co-TRs (regardless of TRP budget size) are required to complete an 'ARC TR Eligibility Check Form'.

*If more than one TR/Co-TR requires approval, completed forms should be collated and uploaded as a single file.

*Upload in PDF format.

No file chosen



Letters of Support (if applicable)

- A letter of support from the Research Body of new TRs, i.e. someone who has not previously acted as a TR or Co-TR on an earlier TRP (max. 2 pages).
- TRs (to be) employed under postdoctoral contracts are required to supply a Letter of Support from their proposed mentor (max 2 pages).
- A letter of support from each Industry Partner (if relevant) (max. 2 pages).
- If more than one Letter of Support is required, letters should be collated and uploaded as a single file.
- Upload in PDF format.

6. Letters of Support. Letters of Support (if applicable):

*A letter of support from the Research Body of new TRs, i.e. someone who has not previously acted as a TR or Co-TR on an earlier TRP (max. 2 pages).

*TRs (to be) employed under postdoctoral contracts are required to supply a Letter of Support from their proposed mentor (max 2 pages).

*A letter of support from each Industry Partner (if relevant) (max. 2 pages).

Choose file No file chosen

Submit

- Applications should review all information before submitting
- Allow time for the submission to be processed

Ready?

If you filled out the form, press the 'Submit' button below. **Do not press the button twice: uploading may take time!**

Submit



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Taighde Éireann
Research Ireland

Appendix III – Application Checklist

Document Required	Format	Page Limit
ARC Hub for ICT Supplemental Application Form	Word	n/a
Video Pitch	YouTube Link	2-minute maximum duration
ARC TRP Application Form	See Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational	
ARC Hub TRP Budget Narrative CV	Research Project Application Guidance document.	
ARC Hub TR Eligibility Check Form (if applicable)		
Letters of Support		

